

# Medicaid: A Smart Investment for California's Children

**Medi-Cal, California's Medicaid program, is the foundation of health coverage for children in the State!**



**4.3 Million Kids Medi-Cal**



**1.4 Million Kids CHIP**



**77,000 Kids Covered California**

**Children enrolled in Medicaid lead healthier lives, have a better chance of finishing high school and college, and have brighter futures.**



Pregnant women with Medicaid have better health outcomes for their children during adulthood, including reduced rates of obesity and hospitalizations and improvements in oral health. Medicaid for children leads to longer, healthier lives.

**In California, Medi-Cal covers more than half of all pregnancies and births.** <sup>1</sup>



Enrollment in Medicaid from birth leads to improvements in reading test scores in the 4th and 8th grades. Medicaid coverage during childhood also decreases high school dropout rates and increases college attendance and completion.

**In California, healthy students make good learners. California children's health insurance increases their ability to pay attention in school by 64% and helps them keep up with school activities by 63%.** <sup>2</sup>



Medicaid protects families from financial hardship by decreasing the risk of family bankruptcy and/or debt. Medicaid shields many children from poverty, reducing their exposure to adverse childhood experiences that can influence their health later in life. In 2010, Medicaid lifted an estimated 2.6 million to 3.4 million individuals out of poverty.

**In California, about 25% of children live in poverty, that's nearly 2.5 million children.** <sup>3</sup>



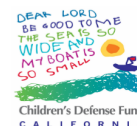
Children and youth covered by Medi-Cal produce economic benefits in adulthood, including increased employment, higher tax payments, and returns on public investment in Medicaid. Each additional year of Medicaid eligibility from birth to age 18 increased cumulative tax payments by \$186 and reduced cumulative Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) by \$75.

**The California Children's Health Coverage Coalition**

 @KidsHealthCA



**CHILDREN NOW**



Sources : <http://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/MedicaidSmartInvestment.pdf>

1. DHCS Medi-Cal birth reports : [www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/Medi-CalBirthReports.aspx](http://www.dhcs.ca.gov/dataandstats/statistics/Pages/Medi-CalBirthReports.aspx)

2. The Healthy Families Program Health Status Assessment (PedsQLTM) - Final Report (California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, September 2004)

3. California Health Interview Survey, 2015: askchis.org